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Sent: 9/24/2021 6:57:27 PM
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Subject: Senior Staff meeting

For consideration for Monday's Senior Staff meeting.

- **Benton Harbor – Update on Petition for Emergency Action**

On September 9, EPA received a Petition for Emergency Action under the Safe Drinking Water Act to abate the imminent and substantial endangerment to Benton Harbor, Michigan and protect residents from lead contamination in drinking water. The 19 signatories are community groups, nonprofit corporations, and other organizations. Levels of lead contamination in Benton Harbor, an environmental justice community, have exceeded the lead action level set by the lead and copper rule since Fall 2018. **On September 13**, EPA HQ and Region 5 leadership discussed recent agency and state actions and agreed to reach out to the petitioners. **On September 15**, OW AA Radhika Fox led a discussion with petitioners, EPA HQ, and Region 5 staff on short-term actions to provide safe drinking water to the residents of Benton Harbor. **During the week of September 20**, EPA held agency discussions, consulted with Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), and held additional discussions with petitioners. EPA is considering a range of actions in consultation with Michigan EGLE to address lead-related health issues in Benton Harbor.

- **9/30 Event AlexRenew Groundbreaking**

AA Radhika Fox will join AlexRenew as they break ground on the RiverRenew Tunnel Project, which was supported by a \$321 million WIFIA loan, announced in February 2021.

- **Announcement/Press Release: Small Drinking Water Grants RFA**

As early as this week, EPA will announce the availability of \$21.7 million in grant funding for technical assistance and training providers to support small drinking water and wastewater systems that are often located in rural communities across the United States.

- **Virtual Announcement: Miami-Dade WIFIA (Flexible timing)**

As early as this week, EPA is announcing a \$424 million Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan to the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department to increase the treatment of wastewater being injected into municipal wells. By helping finance these projects, EPA's WIFIA loan will help divert 225 million gallons of wastewater from being disposed of in the ocean daily. This \$424 million WIFIA loan is the fourth to Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department and will help finance nearly half of the \$866 million project costs for the final phase of its Miami-Dade County Ocean Outfall Legislation Project.

- **Web-Posting: 2nd Draft Selenium Criteria Technical Support Materials**

This week, EPA is releasing four documents, collectively known as the *Draft Selenium Technical Support Materials*, for public comment. They provide implementation support for states and authorized tribes interested in adopting CWA section 304(a) selenium aquatic life criterion for freshwater. The documents also discuss monitoring fish tissue, assessing and listing waters under CWA section 303(d), and NPDES permitting.